CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for managing sales data, comprising:

2   storing a plurality of data components as groups of data components in a database,

3   wherein the plurality of data components comprises information relating to products, and

4   information relating to customers;

5   assigning a subset of the plurality of users to a content review group ("CRG");

6   notifying each user in the CRG to provide input regarding individual data components of

7   a group of data components, wherein the input comprises,

8   indicating whether data components are accurate;

9   entering comments regarding the data components; and

10   entering edits to the data components;

11   receiving and storing the input;

12   notifying a content director ("CD") to review the input, wherein the review comprises,

13   editing the comments entered;

14   deleting the comments entered; and

15   consolidating the input; and

16   staging at least one of the data components to be stored in a central database, based upon

17   the review.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein notifying each user in the CRG comprises:

2   setting an active group flag for a CRG that is designated to participate in review;

3   setting an active data component group flag for a data component group that is to be

4   reviewed; and

5   transmitting an electronic mail ("e-mail") to each user in the CRG having the active group

6   flag set, wherein the e-mail requests each user to participate in reviewing the data component

7   group having the active data component flag set.

1   3.   A system for collecting and managing sales data, comprising:

2   a central database that stores information relating to a plurality of products available from

3   a plurality of suppliers, wherein the information is input by a plurality of users and is stored as

4   data component groups;

5   at least one World Wide Web server ("Web server");

6   a plurality of processors, at least one of which stores an authoring application,

7   comprising,

8   an administrative module; and

9   a server component, wherein the server component periodically polls the central

10   database to determine when to notify content review group ("CRG") members requesting review

11   of a data component group; and

12   hypertext markup language ("HTML") pages that display data components of the

13   data component group, and receive review input from the CRG members.